

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5787

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

CINCPACAF

CINCPACFLT

S E C R E T BANGKOK 12888

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, TH, US.

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR KINTNER'S CALL ON PRIME MINISTER AUGUST 8

REFS: A. BANGKOK 12194

B. STATE 161054

C. STATE 162559

D. BANGKOK 12587

SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR KINTNER MET WITH PRIME MINISTER SANYA THAMMASAK ON AUGUST 8 TO REVIEW THAI-US RELATIONS IN GENERAL AND TO RAISE PARTICULARLY THE SUBJECTS OF PAYMENT OF RTG TAXES BY US CONTRACTORS FROM US MUTUAL DEFENSE FUNDS AND P-3 RECONNAISSANCE AND "FOOD AND MATERIEL" FLIGHTS INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN FROM THAILAND. THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT PRESS FOR IMMEDIATE DECISIONS ON THESE MATTERS BUT FOR OPEN AND FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION OF THEM BY THE RTG. A NUMBER OF OTHER SUBJECTS WERE TREATED; MEMCON FOLLOWS.

THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED CONCERN AND SOUGHT INFORMATION ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPEACHMENT OR RESIGNATION OF THE PRESIDENT. AMBASSADOR KINTNER ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER THAT OUR INSTITUTIONS AND SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WERE SUFFICIENTLY STRONG TO ENDURE THE  
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PRESENT TRAUMA AND THE USG WOULD CONTINUE TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY

IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE MEETING WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL AND THE PRIME MINISTER PROMISED TO CONSIDER THE MATTERS DISCUSSED WITH GOODWILL AND UNDERSTANDING AND IN SUCH A WAY AS TO BE OF MUTUAL BENEFIT TO BOTH COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1. P-3 RECONNAISSANCE AND "FOOD AND MATERIEL" FLIGHTS INTO THE INDIAN

OCEAN FROM THAILAND: AMBASSADOR KINTNER SUGGESTED THAT REALIZATION OF THE NEED TO EXAMINE MORE CLOSELY OUR TWO COUNTRIES' LONGER-TERM INTERESTS IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD HAD RISEN IN PART WITH THE RTS'S JULY 12 DECISION TO BAN P-3 RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS INTO THE INDIAN OCEAN FROM UTAPAO. THE USG, HE SAID, WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE ABRUPTNESS

OF THIS DECISION AND THE LACK OF PRIOR CONSULTATION. HE REFERRED THE

TO THE SUBSEQUENT JULY 26 MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER AT WHICH TIME THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD AGREED THAT "FOOD AND MATERIEL" FLIGHTS COULD CONTINUE PENDING DECISION BY THE RTG. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION OF DOMESTIC PROBLEMS IN THAILAND, BUT EXPRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE RTG WOULD BE ABLE TO GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO CONTINUING FOOD AND MATERIEL FLIGHTS AS WELL AS KEEP OPEN THE POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING P-3 RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS IN THE FUTURE.

2. THE MARITIME PATROL FLIGHTS, THE AMBASSADOR SAID, SERVE A VERY USEFUL PURPOSE. THEY ARE CONDUCTED OVER THE OPEN SEA AND NOT OVER NATIONAL TERRITORIES AND PROVIDE INFORMATION OF IMPORTANCE TO OUR SECURITY AND TO THAT OF COUNTRIES IN THIS AREA. THE AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT WE SHARED INFORMATION FROM THESE FLIGHTS WITH THE RTG, AND ADDED THAT WE SHARE MORE INFORMATION OF A GENERAL INTELLIGENCE NATURE WITH THAILAND THAN WITH ANY OTHER ASIAN COUNTRY. HE SAID WE INTEND TO CONTINUE THIS PRACTICE.

3. THE USG BELIEVES IT IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO LOOK TO THE PAST, SUCH AS THE RATIONALE UPON WHICH OUR FORCES WERE FIRST INTRODUCED HERE, BUT ALSO TO LOOK TOWARD THE FUTURE. WE LIVE IN A FAST-CHANGING WORLD , REQUIRING IMPORTANT ADJUSTMENTS AND CONTINUED ATTENTION TO THE OVERALL SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENTAL CONCERNS OF THIS IMPORTANT REGION. OUR OWN

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INFORMATION IS THAT THAILAND'S ASEAN NEIGHBORS (SUCH AS SINGAPORE, INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA) WANT A PEACEFUL AREA BUT ALSO REALIZE THAT IT WILL BE SOME TIME IN COMING. EVIDENCE OF THIS IS THAT IN ADDITION TO SEATO, THERE ARE OTHER ALLIANCES SUCH AS ANZUS AND THE FIVE-POWER ARRANGEMENT WHICH CONTINUE AND ARE CONSIDERED TO BE OF IMPORTANCE. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT OUR CONTINUED COOPERATION AND SUPPORT IN SUCH AREAS AS P-3 FLIGHTS WILL BE OF BENEFIT NOT ONLY TO THE US

AND THAILAND BUT ALSO TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA.

4. RTG TAXATION OF US-INVITED CONTRACTORS:

THE AMBASSADOR SAID WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING  
FOR SOME TIME WITH GENERAL KRIANGSAK, THE HEAD OF THE THAI  
ALLIED COORDINATING COMMITTEE, THE QUESTION OF US-INVITED CONTRACTORS

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THE MATTER HAS ALSO BEEN RAISED BY THE MFA, HE SAID. THE USG IS VERY  
CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF RTG TAXATION OF FUNDS APPROPRIATED  
FOR COMMON MUTUAL DEFENSE PURPOSES, THE AMBASSADOR SAID. THE  
PRIME MINISTER ASKED WHAT KIND OF TAXATION THIS WOULD BE. THE  
AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT UP TO NOW TAXES HAD NOT BEEN LEVIED, BUT WITH  
OUR EFFORTS TO REGULARIZE OUR RELATIONS, CHANGES IN THAI POLICY  
AND OUR OWN EFFORTS TO REGULARIZE OUR RELATIONS, CHANGES IN THAI POLI  
CY

AND OUR OWN EFFORTS TO GIVE GREATER ECONOMIC BENEFIT TO THAILAND,  
THE POSSIBILITY IS THREATENING. IN PARTICULAR, HE MENTIONED WE  
WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THE RTG REQUIREMENT FOR US-INVITED CONTRACTORS  
REGISTERING TO DO BUSINESS IN THAILAND, WHICH WILL OPEN THEM UP TO  
RTG TAXATION, WITH CONSEQUENT INCREASE IN US COSTS DIRECTLY  
ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE TAXES PAID TO RTG.

5. THE AMBASSADOR STRESSED THAT, INsofar AS THAI COMPANIES HAVE A  
CAPACITY, WE ARE TRYING TO UTILIZE MORE OF THEM. LOCAL FIRMS AND  
JOINT COMPANIES ARE ALSO SUBJECT TO TAXATION. WE ARE WORKING ON  
THIS MATTER WITH GENERAL KRIANGSAK IN HIS CAPACITY AS CHAIRMAN, THAI-  
ALLIED COORDINATING COMMITTEE, AND WILL INFORM THE FOREIGN MINISTER  
OF PROGRESS IN THIS DIFFICULT AND COMPLICATED AREA. THE AMBASSADOR  
EXPRESSED HIS HOPES THAT BEFORE A FINAL DECISION IS TAKEN ON THES  
SUBJECT THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WILL HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY AND  
REVIEW THE MATTER.

6. EVENTS IN WASHINGTON: THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED  
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CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF THE PRESIDENT  
RESIGNING OR BEING IMPEACHED AND CONVICTED, AND ITS IMPACT  
ON THE WORLD. CONSIDERABLE TIME WAS SPENT ON THIS SUBJECT.  
THE AMBASSADOR REVIEWED HIS LATEST INFORMATION ON THE  
SUBJECT FROM NEWS REPORTS, DESCRIBED VARIOUS COURSES OF  
ACTION THAT MIGHT BE TAKEN, AND ASSURED THE PRIME MINISTER  
THAT THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM HAS THE FUNDAMENTAL  
STRENGTH TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY EVEN IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.

7. PROGRESS TOWARD A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT AND THAI-US  
RELATIONS: THE AMBASSADOR TOLD PRIME MINISTER SANYA  
THAT THE US WAS FULLY BEHIND THAI EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A  
CIVILIAN, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, AND THAT HE HAD MADE  
THIS STATEMENT PUBLICLY. THE PRIME MINISTE EXPRESSED  
HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE AMBASSADOR'S SUPPORT AND SAID

HE HOPED THIS DREAM WOULD BE REALIZED IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

8. THE MEETING CLOSED WITH PRIME MINISTER SANYA ASSURING THE AMBASSADOR HE HAD BEEN VERY ATTENTIVE TO ALL THE MATTERS RAISED AND THAT HE WANTED THE AMBASSADOR TO KNOW HE WULD CONSIDER ALL SUBJECTS WITH GOOD WILL, UNDERSTANDING, AND THE HOPE THAT DECISIONS REACHED WOULD WORK FOR BOTH COUNTRIES' BENEFIT. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR THE GRACIOUSNESS, FRANKNESS AND OPENESS WITH WHICH HE HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY THE RTG SINCE HIS ARRIVAL, AND STATED HIS DEDICATION TO FUTHER THE DEEP AND LONG FRIENDSHIP THAT HAS EXISTED BETWEEN THAILAND AND THE US.

9. FULL MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION FOLLOWS BY POUCH.  
KINTNER

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## Message Attributes

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